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The HOUSMAN (HUYSMAN) - SIMONSON FAMILY  
OF  
STATEN ISLAND, N. Y. (1955)

by Elmer G. Van Name, LL.B., LL.D.\*

During the Revolutionary period, an instance of extraordinary self possession and prompt decision is related of a young man named Housman, which probably saved his life. After a fall of snow, he went out with his gun in quest of rabbits. A sudden turn in the wooded path brought him in sight of two British soldiers. They saw each other and each party stopped. Turning his back to the soldiers, Housman waved his hand as if beckoning to some other persons and shouted, "Hurry up, here are two Britishers; three of you go round to the right, three to the left, and the rest of you follow me; hurry up, before they run away." Hearing these directions, and fearing there might be a small army about to surround them, the soldiers turned and fled, throwing away their guns to facilitate their flight. What report they made is not known, but a detachment was sent out to capture the young man and his army. Their mortification must have been extreme when at the turn in the path, they could only find the tracks of a single individual in the snow. (CH 121).





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IN GENERAL

Variations of the Housman (Huysman) name appear as Huijsman, Huisman, Hiseman, Hisman, and Hausman.

The various ancient families of Huysman had Coats-of-Arms, listed by Rietstop in Armorial General (p.1013) as follows:

1. Huysman -- P. d' Utrecht
2. id. Flandre
3. Huysman d' Annecroix - - Bruxelles
4. Huysman de Neufcour - - Brab.

There were three "Huysmans" - Flemish painters of the 17th century, and two later "Huysmans" - one a Belgian Statesman, and the other a novelist who was born in Paris of Dutch ancestry (EB 11:843,952). Infra.

MIGRATION

A look at some of the old Passenger Lists fails to disclose any specific record of the early migration of the Huysman ancestor or ancestors to this country. Bearing in mind the customs of the early days with respect to names, these records might be considered, namely;

1. John Howseman was given a horse under the will of Frances Hanham of Boston, dated April 4, 1631 (NER 39:168).
2. Wm. Houseman, 12 years of age, sailed from London in 1635 aboard the Peter Bonaventure bound for Barbadoes (NER 14:349).
3. Richard Howseman, 19 years of age, sailed from London on May 2, 1635 aboard the Alexander bound for Barbadoes (NER 14:352).
4. Gerritt Cornellison came in April 1659 aboard the "Moseman" (UCW 59 note).
5. Gerrit Cornelissen, a farmer from the "county of Buren", sailed for America on April 26, 1660, aboard De Vergulde Otter (The Gilded Otter) (HSYB 1902:16).
6. Gerrit Cornelissen was named in a petition to settle on Staten Island dated August, 1661 (SIP 1:104).
7. Gerret Cornelise Huisman was a resident of Flatbush on May 3, 1663 and perhaps earlier (KC 150; DHNY 3:135).
8. Gerrit Cornelisz settled in Esopus, N.Y. in 1669 (HSYB 1897:121).
9. On Oct. 25, 1704, Gerritt Cornelius was appointed Guardian in the will of Myndert Coerten of "Broyan burrow" New Utrecht, Kings County (WNYHS 1:439).

BUSHWICK

According to Glute's History of Staten Island (p.391), "The earliest mention of the name is found in the assessment roll of Boswyck (Bushwick), L.I. where the name Charles Housman occurs in the years 1675 and 1676." Clute, and others, consider the name to be of Dutch origin. It was, no doubt, Charles who appears in some of the records under his foreign name-"Sjarel Huysman" (DHNY 2 & 4). Abram was born at Bushwick (infra).

HACKENSACK, N. J.

Charles Howseman bought land on the Hackensack River, Bergen County, N.J. before April 29, 1682 (NJA 21:78) (note a). He, of Essex County, also bought 220 acres of land at New Barbadoes Neck along Saddle River on May 17, 1694, which he transferred to Abraham and John Housman of Hackensack on January 9, 1708/9 (BD C:436).

Abraham Housman and wife on May 27, 1713 conveyed to Isaac Housman and his heirs, by his wife Cornelia Van Giesen (fee tail), 200 acres of land on the West side of the Hackensack River. After Cornelia's death, on June 3, 1731, probably without heirs, Abraham Housman, then of New Barbados, a weaver, and "Garbrach," his wife, conveyed to Hendrick Van Giesen, et al his "remainder in fee simple," in exchange for other land, which they conveyed to him on June 3, 1731 (BD B:180, and B:263).

\* See Who's Who in America





Apparently Charles married three times; 1st to Marritie Dircx, before Mar. 21, 1676, 2nd. to Adriaentje Dircxse before Mar. 25, 1680, and 3rd. to Hendriktie Arentse (or Ares) perhaps the widow of Pieter Cornelisse Breyandt, father of Lysbeth Breyandt, born in 1686 at Hackensack.

Abram Huysman, a young man, married Gerrebreght Terhune on Nov. 29, 1701 at the Hackensack Dutch Church. He was probably a son of Charles for the record states that Abram was born at Boswyck. Sjarel and his first wife had a daughter, Magdalena, bp. Mar. 21, 1676 at New York, and with his wife, Adriaentje Dircxse, had a daughter "Marey", bp. Mar. 25, 1680, and a son "Cristeyn", bp. June 26, 1682, both at Bergen, N.J. At Hackensack On Aug. 9, 1696, Sjarel Huysman and Hendriktie Arentse were witnesses. On Aug. 27, 1704, Sjarel Housman and "Hendriktie his wife" were again witnesses. Charles apparently had other children, probably Johannes, who married Christina Hoppe, Annatje, and Sarah, and perhaps Christina (Bouman) and Isaac Housman, who married Cornelia Van Giesen (supra). On Oct. 28, 1713 Abram Housman and Johannes Housman were witnesses to the will of Charles Macklain of New Barbados, Bergen County, N.J. (NJA 23:302). At Hackensack also, Magdalena Housman and Jan Van der Voort were married on Apr. 5, 1701 and had a son Charles; Sarah Huysman of "Akkinsak" married Nathan Daely on Apr. 25, 1706; and Antje Huisman married Jan Paulsze on Oct. 23, 1707, both at N.Y. Dutch Church. Antjen (Anna) Huysman and Johannes Post were married on Oct. 5, 1734 at Hackensack, N.J. They are probably the same persons bearing those names who had three children baptized at the Dutch Reformed Church on Staten Island, as follows: Abraham, baptised Apr. 19, 1743; Adriaen, baptised Apr. 26, 1748; and Leya, baptised July 28, 1751 (SI 52, 56, 59; CH:417). Other marriages of various Huysmans appear in Vol. 22 of the New Jersey Archives and elsewhere.

#### STATEN ISLAND, N. Y.

The name, Huysman, first appears on the Island with respect to one Johannes Huysman and Christina Hoppe (note b), who had a child, Anna, baptised at the Dutch Reformed Church on November 23, 1718, one of the witnesses being an Anna Huysman, and had another child, Rachel, baptised there on Jan. 15, 1720-1 (SI 21, 25). Clearly this family was from Hackensack; and later baptismal records indicate they returned to that area by June 16, 1723.

1.A. JOHANNES HUYSMAN. It was probably the writer's ancestor who, as "Joh. Huysman," was a witness to a baptism, Sept. 27, 1724 (SI 30). Johannes Huysman (John Housman), his known ancestor, was probably married on Staten Island in 1725; and on Mar. 20, 1726-7 and on Aug. 23, 1729, he bought by two deeds about 24-1/2 acres of land on Staten Island (at the present Mariners Harbor) on the north side of Old Place Road (now Forrest Avenue), and about 5-1/2 acres at "Black Point", as shown by the deed made when he, a wheelwright, (and his wife, Wintje) sold it on May 4, 1756 (RD D:423, 426) (v). The general location is confirmed by the deed Harman Jores Bouman to Joshua Mersereau, dated Mar. 22, 1739-40, which mentions 4-1/2 acres of this land sold to "Johanes hisman" on the north side of Staten Island, "over against Shutors" Island (RD D:196). During Johannes 30 years' residence, Aaron Van Name, in 1741, acquired a large tract of land nearby, probably to the Westward, running out to the water.

It would be interesting to know whether this Johannes was related to the Johannes who had previously married Christina Hoppe at Hackensack. There was, of course, one "Johanes Huisman," probably living on Staten Island, who married Catharine, the daughter of Aert Simonson, and who is named in the latter's will, dated May 6, 1747 (WNYHS 4:424). They do not seem to appear again in the Staten Island records. It may be wondered whether Catharine died childless. Altho the ancestry and birthplace of the earliest known Staten Island Huysman ancestor, Johannes, has not been determined, it can hardly be doubted that he, and perhaps Johannes Huisman who married Catharine Simonson, were consanguineous with the Hackensack clan, and that they arrived on the Island after the census of 1706 was taken (SHGM 1:149).

1.B. SIMONSON. Now we come to the question, who was the father of Wyntje Symons (Simonson)? The name, Simonson, a common name, was found in the Province of New York as early as 1631. One Willem Simonson came over in the "Fox" in 1662 (CH 422). It has been said that the Simonsons





were originally of French descent, Willem being a son of Simon La Blanc (or La Blant or La Blaut). Willem lived in Holland for some years, then on Long Island. Another account states the Simonsons sprang from a Dutch merchant named Simon Brock (AN 5:98, 117). But then, there was Barent Simonson who died leaving his widow, Tryntie Claes, who afterwards married in 1644, Juriaen Blanck, Sr. Barent left a son, Symon Barentszen, who married Wyntie Arents in 1661 (PR 147). One Wyntie Symonse "b. of Flush" married Janeton Braght Sept. 20, 1692 at the Flatbush Dutch Church. Aert Simonson took the oath of allegiance Sept. 30, 1687, and settled on Staten Island. Barent settled there also, upon land on North side of Fresh Kills on Feb. 15, 1700 (RD B:384). The Simonson homestead land at Karles Neck came into the possession of the family between 1677 and 1702 (PR 147). Barent Simonson, 32 years of age, Isaac, 29 years, and Aert, 26 years, appear in the Staten Island census of 1706 (SHGM 1:149). One Aert obtained a land Grant from Queen Anne in 1721 for 160 acres at Carls Neck (SIP 2:953; 3:228; 4:406; 5:177).

Obviously there were two contemporaries named Wyntje Simons, since the one had a child by Johannes Wimmer, baptised in Mar. 1726 (SI 32), and the other had a child by Johannes Huysman baptised in September of the same year (SI 33). Barent Simonson had a daughter, Wyntje, baptised Mar. 25, 1701 (SI 10) but no proof has been found to show whether she married Wimmer or Huysman. Wimmer does not appear any further in the Staten Island records. Wintje who married Wimmer could have been a daughter of Aert and died before the latter made his will. Barent and his wife were, however, witnesses at the Wimmer baptism, while Aert Symons and his wife, Margaret Daniels, were witnesses at the baptism of Peter, the eldest son of Johannes and Wyntje Huysman. The census of 1706 shows two named Wyntje, apparently in Aert's group, one an adult and the other a child.

Altho the ancestry of Wyntje (Huysman) has not been definitely established, it seems plausible that she was not the daughter of Aert, because, tho living, she was not named in his will (WNYHS 4:424), unless perchance they regarded the name Wyntje as meaning Catherine. Otherwise, by inference, she was the daughter of Barent whose baptism is recorded. Yet some of her children bore the names Aert and Margareta. In any case, her own existence as wife and prolific mother is fully established.

1, C. The children of Johannes and his wife, Wyntje, were:

2. Anna, baptised Sept. 4, 1726 at Staten Island, witnesses Harme Bouwman and Neeltje Staats (GMNJ 25:27). She probably died before her father made his will because she is not named therein.
- x3. Peter, baptised May 26, 1728, eldest son.
- x4. Aurt or Aert, baptised May 24, 1729/30, who it probably was that married Elizabeth Marschalk on May 14, 1760 at New York. His will is dated Dec. 3, 1795, proved July 10, 1800 (WNYHS 15:227).
5. Margareta, baptised Jan. 1, 1731/2.
- x6. Johannes (John), baptised Jan. 13, 1733/4; d. 1800.
- x7. Dirk (Richard), baptised Feb. 29, 1735-6; d. July 29, 1807 (AN 5:138; RD 0:171).
- x8. Maria, baptised Jan. 1, 1737/8.
- x9. Abraham, baptised Dec. 9, 1739; d. 1813.
10. Elizabet, baptised Oct. 11 or 18, 1743, married Edward Blake on Mar. 2, 1764 (SIP 2:865).
11. Catherina, baptised Apr. 22, 1746.
12. Jemynna (or Jemima), baptised July 19, 1748.
13. Sarah (named in will).

Johannes Huysman died "during the Revolution" (WNYHS 6:411), and on May 10, 1777, his son, Peter Huysman, was appointed administrator of his estate.

3. Peter Housman, son of Johannes, baptised May 26, 1728, was likewise a wheelwright. On Oct. 11, 1760 he bought of Thomas Dongan, 46 acres in the Manor of Castle Town (RD D:599). His home is shown on the French map (SIH 7:17, 21) and on Mr. Loring McMillan's composite map. The exact date of construction of the house, a stone house, is not known. We have seen that Johannes sold his land at Northfield in 1756, and that Peter bought 46 acres in Castle Town in 1760. (The latter's deed mentions John Housman, probably his father or his brother, as an adjoining owner.) It was Peter who lived in the stone house, said to have been built about





the year 1700 (HGS 101; and note c), before he was born, or in 1730 (SIH 9:28), on the North side of Watchogue Road West of the present Manor Road "just below Gerrit Martling's" (AN 5:82 & 97; SIH 13:18; SIH 8:1). Watchogue Road was, of course, an old road travelled by stage coaches in their day. Miss Ida Dudley Dale wrote, "About 1917, Mr. Lot Alston passed by to his home 'Pine Court,' and told quaint story of stage coach days. Due to the dangerous bend in front of #40, the driver paused there, to blow horn, notifying driver of east-bound stage to wait at the J. Housman homestead." Garret Martling's son, Joseph Baker Holmes Martling (b. at #40 in 1823) married Charity Alston (note k). If the house was built in 1700, or even as late as 1730, it does not readily appear that it was built by the Housmans. Walter Dongan claimed that he was born there (in 1763) (AN 5:11, 12 note; SIP 2:890).

"A horse in the house itself was not a strange sight, for the strong animal proved far more capable than man to drag the great logs of wood into the house to the open fireplace. In through the front door the animal walked after the tree had been cut down, and when he brought the log to its right place, he continued on his journey out the back door" (note d).

The model of a house and its surroundings in the possession of the Staten Island Historical Society, erroneously said to be Peter Housman's home (SIH 6:29), is clearly the home of George Housman at Graniteville.

In 1853, Mr. Anthon had a conversation with Mr. Isaac Housman, then 78 years of age, who said his father Peter, had been "killed in his own house by a party from Jersey (AN 5:77). The house is still standing near the 4 Corners just below Gerrit Martling's. There were nine of these Jersey men and all had their faces blacked. Housman was in the habit of barring his doors just at sundown and the party came just at that time so as to anticipate him." Mr. Isaac Housman "had two brothers, who were grown men, but they were not in the house. \*\*\* They killed Peter Housman by striking him over the head with a club. They probably said nothing to him." Isaac was in the house, "but a mere child, and the negro slaves hurried him and the other children into the kitchen and barred the door. It was all done in a very few moments. They could not find Housman's money. There was a good deal of plate about, but they were afraid to take it, for fear of its being identified. On examining Housman's papers, it was found that his money was concealed in the stone wall in the cellar" (AN 5:82, 97).

In 1851, Mr. Anthon talked with John Tyson who said that Jacob Housman "accused Robins of being one of those who killed his father.\*\*\* The elder Housman had a great deal of money. He had two sets of sons. Just about evening they were as usual barring the windows and doors. As they were about to fasten the door the robbers came, all having their faces blacked, and shoved it open. The father was at the time sick in bed. If the sons had barred the door after the first robber had got in, they might have conquered him, but instead of doing this, they took to their heels. One of the robbers struck the old man and broke his jaw" (AN 5:82, 97). Mrs. Alice Marie Kennedy (note e) said to the writer, in 1933, respecting his death that the "father of Judge Housman hid gold and silver coins under a hog's head, that soldiers or brigands tortured him with hot irons, but he would not tell the hiding place. He died a few days later. His descendants hid the money in the wall and later recovered most of it. Most of the house is now destroyed, but the kitchen is standing." On Mar. 2, 1932, Mrs. Kennedy related to the late Ida Dudley Dale that "Judge Housman's father was persecuted because he favored the Patriot cause in the Revolution" (Note f).

Peter married (1st) Johannah, born about 1740 who died Apr. 6, 1771, leaving children mentioned below, and she was buried in the Port Richmond Dutch Church Yard. She is mentioned in the will of Benjamin Kilsey of Richmond County, dated Oct. 16, 1764 (WNYHS 6:411). This may be a form of Kelsey (NER ). The will does not specify any family relationship, altho it indicates that the wife of the testator was named Hannah. Peter and his wife named children, Benjamin and Joanna. The able genealogist, Rosalie F. Bailey, states that Peter's wife was the daughter of Benjamin Kilsey (PR 148). The census of 1790, page 158, shows that Hannah Kelsey was a widow and that another "free white female" lived with her.

Peter married (2nd) Lena Kruse, a widow (NJA 34:291; WNYHS 7:426), who already had a daughter, Nancy Kruse (NYW 37:269; WNYHS 13:40), the







license being issued May 13, 1772 (NYM). Lena probably died before Peter because she is not named in his will.

After the British left Staten Island during the period from Nov. 25 to Dec. 5, 1783, Peter promptly made his will dated Dec. 16, 1783, probated Oct. 18, 1784 (NYW 37:269; WNYHS 13:40) (Note-g). He was evidently 56 years old when he died in 1784, leaving four boys ranging in age from nine years downward, bereft of both parents.

Fortunately in his will, Peter mentions his brothers and sisters (above) and his own children. These children (order indefinite) were:

xl4. John, the eldest son, born in 1756 or 1757,

15. Benjamin,

xl6. Peter, born 1762?

17. Abraham,

18. Mary, who married John Tyson, had 16 children (RD R:211),

19. Martha,

Probably by his "last wife" the following children,

20. Joanna, born (c) 1773, who it was, probably, that married John Crocheron, Feb. 10, 1793 (SI 270) and died May 5 or 7, 1796. (Error on the tombstone assumed because both of her parents had died when she was a small girl.)

21. Isaac, born Nov. 4, 1775, living in 1853 (AN 5:82, 97), and died Dec. 2, 1857, married Hannah Perine (CH 391),

22. Jacob (AN 5:82, 97),

23. Anthony, born (c) 1778,

24. James, who left a will (RW A:275) dated Nov. 5, 1801, proved Sept. 22, 1803.

The executors and guardians named in Peter's will were his brothers, Aurt and Richard, and his son-in-law, John Tyson.

14. John Housman, the writer's ancestor, was born on Staten Island, perhaps, in 1756 or 1757. It is said that for some years there was no regular minister at Port Richmond Dutch Church (HGS 17). It is also said that from 1770 to 1800 regular records were not kept at this church, and that the few that had been kept were destroyed by fire (SIP 5:98). This may account for the lack of a record of John's baptism and the baptisms of his early children.

In a deed of 1792, John Housman (RD E:255) was designated "Esq.," and likewise in a deed of 1797 (RD K:115); he was executor of the will of Henry Crocheron (1796) (RW A:140); in a deed dated Oct. 23, 1799 (RD E:438), Lewis Ryerss, Esq., sold to John Housmon, of Castleton, therein designated, Esquire, about 3 acres of salt meadow on Tunison's creek; he was Supervisor of Castleton 1799-1802 and 1810; at some time between 1799 and 1827, he was Town Clerk of Castleton (SIP 7:13); on Jan. 27, 1800, one John Housman was admitted to the Port Richmond Dutch Church; in 1800-1802, John Housman, Esq. was one of the Executors of the will of another John Housman, Sr., deceased (dated Aug. 7, 1799) (RW A:204), his uncle; John Housman, Jr. was appointed Executor for estate of Daniel Corson, May 28, 1801 (RW A:222); he was a witness May 1, 1802 (RD G:151) in a deed to William Blake; he was a member of the New York Assembly in 1804 (CH); he was one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Richmond, 1805 (RD G:34), 1806, 1807 (RD F:489); he was Surrogate of Richmond County in 1809-1810; he sold land (with his wife Ann) June 24, 1807 (RD I:13); he sold seven and three-quarters acres to John Tyson May 15, 1815, as recited in a later deed (RD R:211); and he witnessed the Will of Simon Van Name on Jan. 20, 1812 (Note m), as well as many other documents in the course of his career.

Mrs. Frances Jane Bush Merrill (1840-1924) and Alice Marie Kennedy stated to the writer, that he was Judge "many years" (SIP 5:221). Clute's History says he was a prominent member of the family, and for many years was one of the Judges of the Common Pleas Court (CH 391). His signature as Surrogate agrees with his signature as a witness to the will of Simon Van Name.

He was a sponsor for Cornelius Vanderbilt at his baptism on Dec. 16, 1794 at the Moravian Church. "The Commodore" was born at the home of his parents, Cornelius Van der Bilt and Phoebe Hand, near what became Prohibition Park (MH 2:129; SI:84).

John and his family were listed in the censuses of 1790, 1800, 1810, and 1820.

18/11/1914



John Housman lived upon a farm of about 56 acres on the north side of Watchogue Road, the dwelling being located at what is now the North-west corner of St. John Avenue, "in the house where his father had died." He, the eldest son, must have obtained a deed from the executors and failed to record it. The old stone kitchen still stands and is part of the house as now rebuilt (HGS 101; note h). Mrs. Kennedy identified the house as the home of Judge Housman (SIP 5:221). His father had "owned a large farm in Castleton" now Westerleigh (SIP 5:221). Aunt Kate (Mary Catharine Van Name 1843-1929) wrote, "The old Housman place joined grandmother's farm. I remember going there and seeing grandmother's step-mother where Prohibition Park is now. It is built up and called Westerleigh we are told" (HGS 115; SIH 13:17). (The "old Housman place" refers to John Housman's farm, and "grandmother" refers to Johannah Housman Van Name.)

Prohibition Park was founded by Rev. Dr. William H. Boole, a Methodist minister, and his associates, after the example of Ocean Grove, N. J., upon land purchased in 1887. Shortly afterward, Dr. Boole occupied "the Old Stone House" of Peter Housman temporarily, after which it "was again boarded up and abandoned", but Charles Earle Funk (Funk and Wagnalls) in his childhood with other children "found a way in, of course, and would dig up its cellar floor and probe the stones of the fireplace for the treasure which the patriotic owner had concealed when the British occupied the island and steadfastly refused to reveal despite pressure by the Hessian soldiers. They toasted his toes in the big fireplace." In 1891 a frame auditorium, seating about 4000 persons, was erected. Many celebrated orators whose names are now little known spoke there, and were entertained at the dinner table of the Funks and the Booles. The Booths of the Salvation Army, Ballington and his wife, Evangeline, as well as the venerable General William Booth, William Jennings Bryan, Dr. T. DeWitt Talmadge, and Governors, scientists, and entertainers appeared there (SIH 13:18).

Aunt Kate also wrote in a letter dated June 21, 1902, "Dear Elmer: According to promise, I will write out what I recollect of our family ancestry. \* \* Prohibition Park is on part of the farm owned by your Great Great Grandfather and the fine spring they have there is the same one he and his family used. \* \* \* On the other side of the house there was a mixture of French Huguenot ancestry. The tablespoons we have came from your Great Great Grandmother Bodine (note i) for whom I am named. They are not the ones that were in the Revolutionary War; they are gone. We had the chest they were hidden in for a long while but it is gone now. These spoons we have were made from silver she purchased herself in N.Y., made to her order. She was wealthy and intended to leave everything to her children but \* \* \* so that is how we lost it. I remember seeing my Grandfather Lake once. \* \* \* The religion of both families was Dutch Reformed until after my father and mother moved near a Methodist Church after they were about six years married, which they joined, since which time we have all attended that denomination. Now Elmer you see you have a good ancestry and I trust if the Lord spares you, you will prove yourself a worthy descendant. If you will choose the service of the Lord, I know you will be; this is my wish for you. Lovingly your Aunt Kate." (note j)

John Housman married (1) Ann Bodine, daughter of John Bodine and Dorcas, his wife, (S). Ann was born Mar. 30, 1769, bp. Oct. 7, 1770. The names of all of John's children, by both wives, (except Charlotte and the first Martha Ann, bp. Sept. 8, 1803) and those of some of their descendants were remembered and supplied by Aunt Kate and her sisters. Their order, however, is assumed, as follows:

- x25. Johannah, born (c) 1785, died July 19, 1855, married Captain John Van Name on May 18, 1807, at Port Richmond Dutch Church, and had children shown below,
  - 26. Peter, who had a son Peter, and a daughter (N.Y.),
  - 27. James, who married Catherine - - - and had children, including a daughter,
  - 28. Dorcas,
  - 29. John, baptised Nov. 11, 1792,
  - 30. Mary, baptised Sept. 15, 1799,
  - 30½. Martha Ann, baptised Sept. 8, 1803, probably died in infancy,





31. Charlotte, baptised Jan. 5, 1806 (Vosburgh 21),

32. Nathan, born (c) 1807, had children, lived in New York. Nathan Housman, age 47 in 1854, was an uncle of Captain Joshua Van Name according to the testimony in the Joseph Lake will contest (JL),

33. Martha Ann, born July 23, 1809, baptised Aug. 3, 1809, died (never having married) in March, 1861. She left a will dated Mar. 13, 1861 (I-465). (Nathan & Martha Ann had a guardian, Lewis R. March, Esq., appointed for them, Apr. 19, 1826 (RW A:402)).

John Housman was married (2nd) according to the records of the Port Richmond Dutch Church, as "Judge", on Jan. 15, 1814, to "Miss Nancy Housman"; she was known as Anne. They had children:

34. David J., (SIP 5:212),

35. Elizabeth, baptised Feb. 12, 1816, married William Blake and had four children, Elizabeth (oldest) who married William Haell, and John, the youngest,

36. Lanah (Lanie), baptised June 2, 1820, who married Bennett Mason, and had children, Matilda and two sons. (These three children of John had the same guardian appointed in the same proceedings as the other two children, on Apr. 19, 1826.)

John Housman died at Castleton, intestate, in 1825, whereupon letters of administration were granted to Patrick O'Rourke (who married one Elizabeth Housman) and Garrit Martling on Apr. 23, 1825 (note k). The members of the family must have renounced.

His real estate or some part of it was sold by the administrators under a court order, on May 3, 1827 to John Baker (RD 4:2). Anne, however, was entitled to her right of dower which she retained, and apparently remained in possession of the premises and rented some part to others. Her residence upon the property is shown by Aunt Kate's statement that she went there to visit her grandmother's step-mother on the Housman farm adjoining the Van Name farm. Protraction of the lands shows that the farms did indeed join. Since Anne remained there, then some of the subsequent occupants must have made suitable arrangements to live under the same roof. If Anne died in 1854, Aunt Kate would have been almost 11 years old. Joseph Baker Holmes Martling went there about 1841 and had a daughter, Harriet born there, Jan. 4, 1844, and a son, Joseph B. H. Martling, Jr. born there Nov. 17, 1846 (note l). John King Vanderbilt bought the property in 1848, but could not take possession because of the dower right expressly excepted in his deed (RD 17:523). It is said that before 1850 Benjamin Sneden, a ship carpenter, rented the property and lived there many years (AN 5:12). "Mrs. Berger" was married there in 1866. Mrs. Winthrop White stated that she was born there. Part of the house was demolished in 1878 (SIP 5:222). When Prohibition Park was established, the house became a center of activity. John G. Woolley, college graduate, lawyer, husband and father, was brought into the home a tragic victim of the liquor habit, and thru the friendship and ministry of the Booles, he was reconciled with God. He became the great temperance orator devoting his life exclusively to curbing the liquor traffic (Who Was Who in America, Vol. 1:1381). At various times the premises have been occupied by Mac Guire (before the turn of the 20th century), Mayer, Sleicht, and others; and Vreeland, who farmed the place as owner, "tore down one whole side of it from attic to cellar, which left the hall forming the left side of the house. But for all their trouble they met the same disappointment as the soldiers," who in their haste to depart, "upset even the dye pots where the home-spun clothes were colored." (Note d) The property was occupied by Frank F. Ives and wife about 1906 (deeds dated 1912 and 1925, RD 411:419, 597:330), and then occupied by Wm. M. Finkenauer. Not one side of the house runs parallel to the streets, which is as it should be, for it shows that long as these roads may have existed, the house was there first and selected its own position regardless of surveyors to come in later years. At present the property is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Henning L. Warnecke, who very graciously entertained the writer and showed him the interior. The newer living room, with its beautiful cabinet work painted white, is most attractive and restful. A glimpse of it can be seen in Dr. Steinmeyer's history (HRS 101). The section of the house to the eastward with its thick stone walls, heavy exposed





hand-hewn oak timbers, and low peaked-roof attic, is obviously very old. One can sense the traditions of the past, and living almost in days of yore, witness the stirring and momentous events that occurred here, the place that has been by so many generations affectionately called "home." A low circular stone wall stands on the front lawn, no doubt marking the spot of the old farm well of water, mute token of the past.

25. Hannah (JoHannah) Housman, born (c) 1785, married on May 18, 1807 John Van Name, who was born (c) 1783 (note m).

Altho Johannes and his son, Peter (1728-1784), had been wheelwrights, the latter's son, John, married into the wealthy Bodine family and became a prominent public official as shown above. It was natural then, in the usual course of events, that John's daughter, JoHannah, should marry a promising son of North Shore neighbors, descended from illustrious Staten Islanders, such as Pierre Billiou (the pioneer), Aaron Jansen Prall Van Nearden (the Huguenot), the Van Names (a family of magistrates), Captain Cornelius Corsen and his son, Colonel Jacob Corson (jurists and military officers), as well as the Mersereaus, the influential Huguenot family of the five patriotic brothers some of whom were much about the person of General Washington, and who are said to have established the first line of stage coaches from New York to Philadelphia, via the ferry which they owned at what is now Port Richmond (notes m and n). All, however, probably earned their livelihoods as farmers, millers, artisans and the like, usual in the early days. Peter Mersereau was postillion for Lady Washington from Trenton to Elizabethtown on her way to Washington's Inauguration (SIH 12:28).

Captain John Van Name's schooner was known as the "Clotilda" (note o). On July 18, 1817, John's father-in-law, John Housman, and Anne, his wife, conveyed to him, two acres of land on the north side of Watchogue Road, Castleton, a part of John Housman's 46 acre farm home (RD 30:454). John Van Name and his family afterwards lived there. The house has since been moved around the corner to Smith Place (note p).

The children of John Van Name and Hannah (JoHannah), his wife, were

37. Anthony (married Hannah Cannon), had children,
38. Mary Ann (married John Bush), had children,
39. Charlotte (married Nicholas Simonson), had children,
40. John Housman baptised Feb. 11, 1811,
41. John Housman baptised Mar. 29, 1814 (married Clarissa Vroom), had children,
42. David (married Eliza Wood), had children,
43. Joshua, born Jan. 23, 1818 (married Alletta Lake), had son, Clarence Barrett Van Name, the writer's father (JL),
44. Hannah Jane (married Aaron Van Name) and had two sons, Nicholas and John.

John Van Name died intestate on Oct. 11, 1833, at the age of 51 years, 10 months and 9 days. His widow, and children sold the homestead on Mar. 22, 1853 (RD 30:237) (note q). She died July 19, 1855 at Jewett Avenue, formerly Pond Road. Both were buried at Port Richmond Reformed Dutch Churchyard.

4. Aurt Housman, son of Johannes. It was probably he who married Elizabeth Marshalk at New York in 1760, and died leaving a will probated Sept. 10, 1800 (WNYHS 15:227). Their children were 45. Cathalina, bp. Dec. 26, 1763, 46. Cathalina, bp. June 9, 1765, 47. Wyntie, bp. June 22, 1766, 48. Elizabeth, bp. Nov. 8, 1767 who married Albertus Smith, and was the "only surviving child", 49. Cathalyntje, bp. July 14, 1769, 50. Pieter, bp. June 17, 1770, and 51. Pieter M., bp. Jan. 3, 1774.

6. Johannes Huysman, "Sr" (John Housman), married Ann Merling. They executed a deed in 1810 (RD 23:267). He left a will dated Aug. 9, 1799, probated Mar. 18, 1800 (RW A:204 #74), naming John Housman, Esq. et al, as Executors. The children of this marriage were 52. Peter, 53. Abraham, 54. Aurt, 55. Benjamin, 56. Richard, (a minor in 1799), 57. Elizabeth, 58. Nauche (a minor in 1799), and 59. Baarent, bp. Oct. 6, 1765 (SI:65).

7. Richard (Dirk) son of Johannes, married Mary - - -. She was born in 1736, and died Aug. 17, 1807. They executed a deed in 1788 (RD E:157); AN V:138). Administration was granted on his estate, Aug. 3, 1807. Their children were 60. Judge Isaac R. Housman, b. 1778-9, died Apr. 3, 1859, who married Judith Mersereau Nov. 27, 1779 (and who had





sold his property to the Sailors' Snug Harbor) (HGS 96), and 61. Mary, who married Judge Jacob Tyson on Feb. 6, 1794, son of Judge John Tyson (RD U:44).

8. Maria, married Jakob Graaf, and had at least, two children, 62. Jacob, bp. Jan. 28, 1761, 63. Elizabeth, bp. Nov. 28, 1762, 66. ? Richard A., and 67. ? Jacob. ¶ 9. Abraham, who married Jane (Marlin?). They executed a deed in 1785, and a mortgage in 1790 (RD F:3; B:365), and had two or more children: 64. Abraham P. (MH 2:170), who married Mary Mersereau and had children, and 65. Isaac A. who married Frances Van Name, and had at least one son, 68. Nicholas Van Name Housman (RD; RW I:357; RW, Admn. A:235; RD, Mtg. I:203).

16. Peter Housman (probably the son of Peter), b. in 1763, died Jan. 24, 1832, married Elizabeth Mackey (McKay) on Apr. 25, 1784. She was b. 1765, the daughter of Anna, 1740-1825, and died in 1832 (RD O:352). Their children were 69. John, b. Mar. 2, 1785, married Mary Praul May 12, 1811, 70. Elizabeth, b. Apr. 5, 1786, bp. Aug. 6, 1786, married Abraham Wood Oct. 20, 1805, 71. Nancy (Ann), b. Oct. 22, 1788, bp. Dec. 7, 1788 (SI 66), married John Housman Jan. 16, 1814 (according to the Bible), 72. Peter, b. Oct. 27, 1792, married Mary Burbank Jan. 16, 1813, 73. Martha, b. July 3, 1796, x74. Benjamin, b. Apr. 6, 1799, married Mary --- Dec. 6, 1820, 75. Hannah, b. Feb. 15, 1802, 76. Hannah, b. May 27, 1803, and 77. William Mackey, b. Oct. 4, 1808, d. Dec. 2, 1876 (note r).

74. Benjamin (son of Peter), had children, 78. Edmond b. 1823, d. Feb. 18, 1890, married Jan. 20, 1847 to Hannah E. Corson, b. 1825, d. Apr. 27, 1901, issue, 82. William H. and 83. Arthur B., 79. George Washington b. 1825, d. 1845, 80. Anthony, b. Oct. 18, 1827, married Margaret Weed Sept. 21, 1854, and 81. William Albert, b. 1831, d. 1846 (note r).

#### MISCELLANEOUS

There was one Jan Huysman (son of Andries Huysman) of Bergeschehoek, South Holland, born about 1694, whose marriage license was issued Dec. 3, 1716 (SL). He married Jannetje Van der Does in Schiedam, South Holland.

Some evidence exists that others named Houseman - with an "e" - came to this country, probably from the British Isles or from Germany (EB 11:843; 11:952; note s). An Abraham Housman was naturalized in 1735. He left a will in 1748 showing an estate in London and the United States (WNYHS 4:172).

One Peter Housman was in the Revolution, designated a Captain under Col. Christopher Billop on Apr. 1, 1776 (SIP 5:98). Peter and John were privates (SIP 5:98). John received pay for services in 1781 as a corporal in Capt. Peter Elsworth's Co., Col. Marinus Willett's Regiment (note t). John Housman swore to the State of New York in 1783. But Joseph, Garret, and George Housman were Loyalists during the Revolution (MH 1:342). Eventually some of the Loyalists returned to their old homes (SIP 1:200, 202). Four Housmans served in the Revolution in New Jersey (Stryker).

John Housman signed a petition regarding a road, Sept. 16, 1762, and acted as a Surveyor or Commissioner of Highways in the proceedings (SHGM 1:35). Since the office was elective (SHGM 1:44; SIH 3:10), presumably he was free to so act, otherwise there must have been another John. Note also that the petition seems to distinguish between John Housman and John Hiseman (SHGM 1:35).

Peter was an appraiser in 1766, etc. (SIP 1:158, 159). He was a surveyor and Commissioner of Highways, July 18, 1774 (SIAS 15:10; RD E:63, 67, 81, 83).

Eve Housman married John Hanegan on June 5, 1780 at Swedes Church, Philadelphia (Pa. Archives, VIII:418, 2 ser.).

John Houseman was a butcher in Phila. (1779-1780) (NJA 4, 2nd.ser.).

John Housman was a witness in Cumberland County, N. J. Apr. 27, 1816 (NJA 42:157, 1st series).

Laurence Housman, English author and playwright, is currently listed in "Who's Who in America."

The land along the north shore west of Duxbury Glebe was owned by the Dutch, including Housman (SIP 2:998).





Pictures of Captain George W. Housman and his home, as well as the home of Captain David Van Name may be of interest to some (SIP 2:630; 5:97). An Abraham Housman is mentioned and two Housman homes have been pictured (SIH 7 #4; SIP 1:416). Captains George and Jacob Housman are mentioned elsewhere (NS 113). A card preserved by the family, reads "M. Housman, 111, 113, 115 Elm St., New York, Manufacturer of paper novelties - advertising signs."

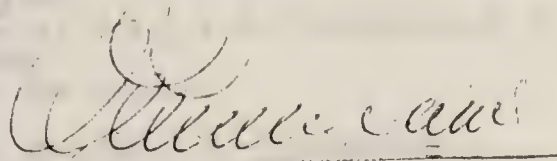
#### CONCLUSION.

Often in the old records, the name of an individual is stated without any identifying data, such as age, marital status, names of relatives, residence, or occupation. This is accordingly true in most of the many records respecting the various Johns, Peters, Isaacs, Abrahams, and other Housmans indexed at the Staten Island Historical Society and elsewhere. Moreover, some of the old deeds were evidently not recorded, while others contain only fragmentary descriptions. An effort is being made to construct genealogical charts of the family at Hackensack and on Staten Island, and to protract the descriptions of the lands owned by members of the family on Staten Island (notes a and u).

So far as is known, this is the first attempt to collect the scattered early data respecting the family, and it is offered as a contribution toward a Housman genealogy. Prepared from the references cited, it is believed to be substantially correct. Those claiming descent should, however, check the original sources for proofs of lineage, and not jump to conclusions. Fortunately, the first Peter Housman did, in his will, name his brothers and sisters as well as his children; and when this information is supplemented by the baptismal records, and the recorded tradition respecting the Peter Housman home, besides later family memories, the writer's Staten Island Housman ancestry seems fully established.

It is hoped to extend this paper as circumstances may indicate. In this connection, any aid that may be offered, as well as all criticism and suggestions, will be appreciated.

230 Bellevue Ave.,  
Haddonfield, N. J.  
December 15, 1955.



#### NOTES.

a. The relationship of the Staten Island branch to the Hackensack family seems clear from the repetition of the Christian names, Abraham, Isaac, Johannes, James (Jacobus), Anna, and Sarah.

b. Respecting the Hooper family, see Har. 432; HSYB 1900; NYGBR 39:269, 40:9, & 41:287; and New York of Yesterday by Hopper S. Mott 102; and PR 147.

c. Dr. Steinmeyer, under date of Dec. 4, 1955, advised that "I.K. Morris is the source of my information concerning the date of the Housman house. Loring McMillen thinks it may have been built just after the division of the Dongan patent, but admits that he knows little more about it than is to be found in Morris."

d. From a photostat of a newspaper clipping of 1916 given to me by Ida Dudley Dale.

e. Mrs. Kennedy's genealogy and portrait can be found in SIP 5:221; she lived at 314 Westervelt Ave., S.I., and died Dec. 2, 1940 (SIH 4: #1). She stated to Ida Dudley Dale that she recalled her grandmother on the Bodine side - "so erect and aristocratic" (Mary Ann Van Name Bush).

f. This information is in her diary, Mar. 2, 1932. Miss Dale died Mar. 24, 1955. Her genealogy is in SIP 5:177.

g. I have a photostat of Peter Housman's original will.

h. I have taken a photograph of it, and have also been given a photograph made in 1897 or 1898.

i. Teaspoons and tablespoons belonging to Catherine Britton Bodine, marked "CB", and teaspoons belonging to Johannah Housman, wife of John Van Name, marked "HVN" are in my possession.





j. So this work, really begun at age 14, developed into a compelling interest and has had some attention at various times during the intervening years.

k. Garret Martling died Aug. 15, 1852 at the age of 73.

l. This data is from a letter of Miss Dale quoting Wm. Alston as of 1916, he being then 82 years old, hence born in 1834.

m. Thomas Vail, Salem, 1640, by Wm. Penn Vail, MD.; "The Early History of the Van Name Family" in SIH 14:19 etc.; Van Name, Housman, Bodine, Lake chart, revised 1955, filed with various historical societies; AB 100. I have marriage certificates of John and Joshua Van Name, and Joshua's Bible, and photostats thereof.

n. See my paper on Pierre Billiou, Feb. 1, 1954; Prall, SIP 2: 940, 3:29; Corson, NYGBR 66:221; Mersereau, NYGBR 27:195, SIP 1:176, SIH 12:28, SIAS 15:9, 10.

o. The woolen "fly" that flew from the mast as a wind indicator is in my possession.

p. I photographed this house in 1952.

q. I have a photostat of this deed record.

r. Housman Bible abstract at Staten Island Historical Soc., I:368.

s. A volume entitled, "The Houseman Family of Westmoreland County, Pa." does not relate to our family.

t. New York in the Revolution; New York Archives 90:399; The National Archives, Washington, D. C.

u. I plan to file the charts and map when finished with a few historical and genealogical libraries.

v. Johannes, a wheelwright, was a witness in 1742 & 1747 (D:322,374)

# CODE TO REFERENCES.

x indicates that more about the individual follows under the appropriate number.

AB Annals of Binghamton, N. Y.

AN Anthon's notes, in Pro. of the S.I. Inst. of Arts and Sciences.

BD Bergen County Clerk's office, Hackensack, N. J.

BH History of Richmond County, N. Y., by Bayles.

CH Clute's History of Staten Island.

DHNY Documentary His. of the State of N.Y., E.B.O'Callaghan, M.D.

EB Encyclopaedia Britannica, 1954.

GMNJ The Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey.

Har History of Harlem, by Riker.

HGS Staten Island, 1524-1898, by Dr. Henry G. Steinmeyer.

HSYB Holland Society of New York Year Books.

JL Facts Regarding one Joseph Lake of Staten Island, N. Y.  
(Revised 1954) by Elmer G. Van Name.

KC Early Settlers, Kings County, by Bergen.

MH History of Staten Island, by Ira K. Morris.

NER New England Historical and Genealogical Register.

NJA New Jersey Archives.

NS Legends, Stories, and Folklore of Old Staten Island, Part  
I - The North Shore, by Hines and Davis (1925).

NYGBR The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record.

NYM New York Marriages (1860), Albany, New York.

NYW Records in the Surrogate's Office, New York County, N. Y.

PR Pre-Revolutionary Dutch Houses and Families in Northern  
New Jersey and Southern New York, by Rosalie F. Bailey.

RD Records in the County Clerk's office, at St. George, S. I.

RW Records in the Surrogate's office, St. George, S. I.

S Annals of the Sinnott, Rogers, Coffin, Corlies, Reeves,  
Bodine and Allied Families, by Mary Elizabeth Sinnott.

SHGM Stillwell's Historical and Genealogical Miscellany.

SI Collections of the N.Y. Gen. and Bio. Society, Vol. IV.

SIAS Proceedings of the S.I. Institute of Arts and Sciences.

SIH The Staten Island Historian, pub. by The S.I. Hist. Society.

SIP Staten Island and Its People, by Leng and Davis (1930).

SL Records of the Genealogical Society, Salt Lake City, Utah.

UCW Ulster County Wills, by Anjou.

WNYHS The New York Historical Society Collections, Wills.





















